
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 10 MAY 2011

U.S. military engages soldiers with smartphone as training tool

"Budgets are always an issue," said Frank C. DiGiovanni, director for training readiness and strategy at the Defense Department. "What I'm trying to do is demonstrate these are extremely effective." DiGiovanni made his remarks at GameTech, a 5-year-old convention that was held in Orlando in March. It showcases the military's expanding use of simulators, video games, virtual worlds and smartphones. Besides the video games that allow soldiers to rehearse for combat, vendors were offering devices that provide cultural and language lessons, medical training and shooting practice.

Whitefish student nears end of West Point years

Danczyk also has visited eight countries during her four years at the academy. In Japan, Danczyk job-shadowed with a small military unit that flies Black Hawk helicopters for VIPs. She was part of a cultural immersion in Ecuador, practiced winter warfare tactics with cadets in Chile and studied Spanish and socioeconomics in Costa Rica.

A Teaching Network Brings Arabic to the Heartland

As a student at Montana State University more than 10 years ago, Jeremy Fowler decided to take Arabic, a language he was only dimly aware of and was surprised to learn was available to him. Today he is a doctor, using his Arabic to treat impoverished Bedouins with tuberculosis at a small clinic near Irbid, Jordan. "I never imagined myself working somewhere like this," he says. "But the language studies prepared me to start helping out immediately." (Requires subscription). Dr. Fowler took his courses through the U.S. Arabic Distance Learning Network, which blends videoconference instruction and in-person teaching to provide classes at eight universities in Missouri, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. About 2,500 students have completed the network's courses, making it one of the country's largest Arabic programs.

Dual-language immersion programs growing in popularity

Dual-language immersion programs are the new face of bilingual education — without the stigma. They offer the chance to learn a second language not just to immigrant children, but to native-born American students as well.

Bilingualism is no advantage when studying foreign languages at upper secondary school

Today, in Sweden a large proportion of school pupils have a foreign background and switch between their home language and Swedish on a daily basis. However, bilingualism in itself does not bring any advantages when it comes to learning a foreign language. A new thesis in German from the University of Gothenburg shows that bilingual upper secondary school pupils perform somewhat below average in language tests, compared with those who only speak one language. Research into how bilingual pupils learn foreign languages at school is not unequivocal. Many results show that bilingual pupils have advantages, but this applies primarily in countries where the pupils being studied speak two national languages, such as in Spain (Spanish and Catalan/Basque).

PREVIOUS NEWS

Md.-Based Intelligence Agencies Helped Track Bin Laden

(Baltimore Sun)...Scott Calvert

One day last year, a trusted courier for Osama bin Laden answered a phone call that might have been wholly unremarkable except for one thing — the National Security Agency was apparently listening in. That intercepted call helped American intelligence officials track the courier all the way to the walled compound in Pakistan where bin Laden was hiding. The discovery eventually led to last week's midnight assault by Navy SEALs who killed the al-Qaida leader, ending a pursuit that began in the mid-1990s.

The Military's quest for a universal translator

*(Public Radio International)...*Alex Gallafent

The US military has been producing specialist interpreters for decades -- people who spend years learning Arabic, Chinese and other challenging languages. They're the kind of people Rye Barcott depended on. He's a former Marine captain who served in Iraq. For Barcott, there's no substitute for having a flesh-and-blood interpreter by your side when you're gathering intelligence, specifically, a trusted linguist who can translate all aspects of a conversation -- the verbal and the non-verbal. But as Barcott points out, few units, especially in the infantry, have access to human interpreters. Machine translation could help, with basic information at least.

India turns to sports, economics and culture to try to stop renewal of Kashmir protests

*(The Associated Press)...*Ajiaz Hussain

After facing three summers of violent separatist protests in Kashmir, the Indian government is trying to prevent another outburst of rage with a new approach: charm. It's starting cricket and soccer clubs, holding out the hope of new jobs, and teaching troops to speak the local language as it changes tactics in this Muslim-majority region where residents have long demanded either independence or a merger with neighbouring Pakistan.

Poor language skills 'leave Britons out of EU jobs'

*(BBC)...*Gillian Hargreaves

Only 5% of the jobs in the European Parliament and Commission are taken by British workers - although the UK contains 12% of the EU's population. The government is aiming to reverse a decline in language study in schools.

Spain's job seekers flock back to class

(Daily Nation)

Spain's economic downturn is sending jobless workers flocking back to school to learn other languages — mainly English — to boost their appeal to employers, providing a boon for language academies. Nearly one in two Spaniards, or 46.6 per cent, cannot speak a foreign language, the fourth highest level in the European Union after Romania, Hungary and Portugal, according to European Union statistics agency Eurostat.

Translating and interpreting is a growing, but uneven, industry

(Philly Inquirer)

Dale Eggett, who will finish a master's degree in less than three weeks, will go to work the week after, having had no problem landing a job. "I did have multiple, multiple job offers," said Eggett, whose Spanish and computer skills put him in the forefront of a burgeoning field. The global marketplace for interpreting, translating, and other language services was estimated at \$26.3 billion in 2010 and is projected to reach \$38.1 billion by 2013.

DLIFLC alumni support Operation Tomodachi

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) graduates put their language training to good use in support of Operation Tomodachi after the recent disaster in Japan. Marine Lt. Col. James Kendall, a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) and Japanese linguist, was called to Camp Sendai only days after the disaster struck. He was soon working alongside Japanese Soldiers and officials to provide aid to victims of the disaster in the areas hardest hit by the tsunami.

Air Force mourns professor killed in Afghanistan

The Air Force community paid their respects Thursday afternoon to an Air Force Academy professor killed while serving a tour overseas. Maj. Philip Ambard, 44, was killed along with seven other members

of the U.S. military and one civilian in a mass shooting in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was serving on a NATO team, training the Afghan Air Force. The attack is still under investigation. Ambard was one of the Academy's top rated foreign language professors. He began teaching at the Academy in 2003.

Louisiana Board of Regents Eliminates 100 Degree Programs

The Louisiana Board of Regents has [voted to eliminate 100 degree programs that produce too few graduates from state colleges and universities](#), 2theadvocate.com reports. Nearly 200 additional programs will be either consolidated or merged into other degrees. The cuts are a result of a review conducted last year of nearly 460 degree programs meant to identify those with the lowest completion rates. The plan, approved last week, will cut several foreign language programs. Southern University will lose both its Spanish and French degrees, while Louisiana State University is terminating its bachelor's degrees in Latin and German.

SESSION Day 4: Chamorro Language Bill Moved to Voting File

Bill No. 95-31 (COR) – by M. Silva Taijeron - AN ACT TO AMEND §8103(A), CHAPTER 8, TITLE 17 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO EXPANDING THE CHAMORRO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Bin Laden killing leaves questions for Afghan scholars

At the Defense Critical Language and Culture Training Program in Missoula, where select soldiers endure a six-month cultural dunk tank before Afghan deployment, bin Laden's slaying was a show-stopper. The U.S. has a complicated relationship with parties in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. It carries out drone strikes in parts of Pakistan where al-Qaida are known to be, but not in others where potential targets are also located. It fights the Taliban, in Afghanistan, but has never placed the Afghan group on its terrorism list. At the military immersion school hosted by the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Center, Owen, a former senior intelligence officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., will be unpacking those questions for some time.

ANALYSIS: Viewpoint Breaking Language Barriers

Recruiting workers with strong foreign language skills, especially in national security roles, is an on-going struggle for federal agencies. But the National Security Education Program is providing some relief. Designed to build a broader and more qualified pool of candidates with foreign language and international skills, NSEP focuses on the cultures of Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The program is administered by the Defense Department and a 13-member advisory board chaired by Samuel D. Kleinman, deputy assistant secretary for readiness. Other members include senior officials from the Homeland Security, State, Commerce, Education and Energy departments.

Global Competence: The Knowledge and Skills Our Students Need

These are necessary strategies for change, but insufficient to create the citizens, workers and leaders our nation needs in the 21st century. Missing in this formula for a world-class education is an urgent call for schools to produce students that actually know something about the world--its cultures, languages and how its economic, environmental and social systems work. The concept of global competence articulates the knowledge and skills students need in the 21st century.